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The Power of Voice

“Good morning, everyone. It’s eight o’clock in the morning.”

A beautiful voice rings out from the speaker in the classroom every morning. This voice comes from a member of our school’s broadcasting club. I’m a member of this club too. While the speaker for the morning is broadcasting, his or her voice is the most important thing. We, the club members, understand the importance of and treasure our voices, practicing every day to make them more beautiful.

The voice is a powerful instrument that can be used to convey a person’s feelings, and by learning how to use it more effectively, one can express their feelings more clearly. To be honest, I have had difficulty with this. And for a long time, I wondered if I’d ever be able to be a great speaker. But throughout my experiences in the broadcasting club, I have learned that there are three keys that everyone can use to ‘unlock the door’ to a better and more effective use of our voices.

First is to use your vocal register. Every person has a natural range - the highness or lowness of our natural speaking voice. Just like in music. The ranges can give you different impressions on each other.

Second is the tone of your voice. When you are talking to people and explaining one of your exciting or sad memories, your voice goes up and down in pitch. This allows the listener to feel closer to and more interested in what you are saying because of the expressive intonation. Have you ever had an experience listening to a monotone speech? Doesn’t it make you feel bored and maybe even put you to sleep? That’s because you can’t feel the speaker’s passion as the tone of the speaker remains the same throughout the conversation or lecture. It is difficult to understand someone’s feeling from an unchanging tone of speaking.

“Attention please! Can I tell you a secret?” This is the last key, the volume of your voice. You can attract people’s attention and interest by using a big voice, saying “Attention please!”, for example. Or, you can draw interest by using a small voice, just like you’re telling a secret. Of course, this would not be true and could even have the reverse effect if you talk loudly all the time or whisper all the time. The listener will just tune you out, like white noise on the television. I think all of us have experienced listening to a speaker that sounds like this ‘white noise’, maybe a boring teacher, a mother or father, a coach or even a friend in our lives at one time or another.

Our broadcasting club focuses on these three keys in order to make our broadcasts more fascinating and enjoyable. But can’t we use these keys not only in broadcasting, but in our daily lives? When you give a speech in front of many people, like this, or even when you have a conversation, if the listener cannot connect with you, it might be that your voice is not effectively expressing your true feeling through the use of register, tone and volume.

We all use our voices for communicating many things every day. And, we can all be better communicators by trying to change how we speak, even a little bit. Have you ever thought about your own voice and how it sounds to others? How a difference in the way you use your voice could affect others? Think about it. For great speakers are not born, they’re made. And similar to the words of President Obama, one speaker is all it takes to touch the hearts in a room, to influence a nation, and maybe even change the world.